(b) whether the freight subsidy being given on essential commodities is going to be reduced greatly by the Department; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways are taking steps to improve the financial condition both by controlling expenditure and increasing revenues. Measures have been taken to control expenditure by improving staff productivity, asset utilisation, inventory management and fuel consumption. Concurrently, earnings are expected to improve with rationalisation of freight tariff and passenger fare proposed in the Railway Budget 2002-03, coupled with aggressive marketing and improved services. Efforts are also being made to curb leakage of revenue and pilferages.

(b) No subsidy was being given for transportation of any commodity. However, some of the commodities are carried below cost of operation. As per Railway Budge 2002-03, the freight structure of all commodities is proposed to be rationalized. However some essential comodities of common use such as Edible Salt, Fruits, Vegetable, Gur, Jaggery, Shakkar, certain items of Edible Oils, Foodgrains, Pulses, Organic Manures, Urea, Fodder and Dry Grass are proposed to be carried at lowest Class-90 of freight tariff.

Purchase of Spares from GE by the Railways

†1449. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase spares for diesel enging from General Electronic (GE), company of USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railways had rejected the material of said company in the past;

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing the spares from GE;

(e) whether Government have recently purchased diesel engines from General Motors, another American Company and that company is transferring the technology also; and

(f) if so, from which company the diesel engines were purchased in the past and the reasons for not purchasing the spares from the same company?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir, there is no such specific decision to procure diesel engine spares from American Company M/s General Electric. Earlier Diesel Engines (Locomotives) had been purchased around 1956 from M/s American Locomotive Company (ALCO), which has been subsequently taken over by M/s General Electric, USA Most of the components of this type of locomotives have been indigenised.However, certain components which have not yet been indigenised are generally procured through Global Tenders, in which General Electric, USA and General Electric Transportation Systems (India) Ltd., also secure orders for some items as mentioned in reply to para (b) below.

(c) and (d) A statement is attached (*See* below).

(e) Yes, Sir. 21 Nos. 4000 H.P. Diesel Electric Freight Locomotives and 10 Nos. Diesel Electric Passenger Locomotives have been imported from M/s General Motors/USA during the year 1999 and 2001 respectively. The company has agreed to Transfer of Technology, which is under progress.

(f) As mentioned in reply to (a) above, Diesel Engines were earlier purchased from ALCO. As a result of indigenisation, most of the parts are made in DLW or purchased from different sources through competitive tendering.

Statement

Details of orders placed on M/s General Electric, USA and GETS (India) Ltd., New Delhi

A. Diesel Engine Parts being procured from General Electric Co. USA.

	Purchase Order No.	Item	Qty.	Value (FOB)
(i)	GT/97-98/115/P8/10863 dt. 19.6.99	Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P.	10	US$228,390
(ii)	GT/99-2000/183/P8/Dev/10053 dt. 1.3.99	Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P.	10	US$ 247,000
(iii)	050170000/0110060 dt. 21.2.2001	Spares for above Turbo Chargers	34	US$ 105,103

No rejections in the supplies made against above contracts.

B. Diesel Engine Parts being procured from GETS (India) Ltd. (General Electric Transportation Systems(India) Ltd.) New Delhi.

	Purchase Order No.	Item	Qty.	Value in Rs (Crore)
(i)	08950050/10097/152 87 dt. 19.4.2000@	Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P.	74	Rs. 8.93
(ii)	08007090/01115385 dt. 22.11.2001	Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P.	88	Rs. 12.41
(iii)	GT/99-00/505/P8/015192 dt. 16/1/1999	Super Bowl Piston GE/ALCO	800	Rs. 2.38
(iv)	088700100/01115371 dt. 29/10/2001	Super Bowl Piston GE/ALCO	760	Rs. 2.66
(v)	GT/98-99/116/10016/015160 dt. 3/6/98@	Plus Cylinder Head Casting Non Machined	2600	Rs.3.38

There were some rejections out of the supplies made against the contracts marked @ above and the firm is replacing the rejected items.

Nizamabad-Bollaram broad gauge Work

1450. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Nizamabad-Bollaram broad gauge work on S.C. Railway has been started;

(b) if not, by when the same would be started; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This is a part of the sanctioned gauge conversion project of Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankanpet-Bodhan of which the anticipated cost is Rs. 287.83 crore.